

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-29 and 31 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ system, comprising:

a presence information unit configured to provide presence information associated with a plurality of users said presence information comprising a plurality of elements associated with each user;

a storing unit configured to store information defining at least one group, said group ~~containing~~ comprising a plurality of users;

an information providing unit configured to provide second information defining for each user of said group which elements of said presence information are to be provided to a watcher, wherein for at least one user of said group, said second information defines a subset of said elements of said presence information; and

wherein said second information is definable by the watcher.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said defined subsets of said elements of said presence information are provided to the watcher in response to a request from said watcher.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said watcher is at least one of said plurality of said users.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said defined subsets of said elements of said presence information are available only to one watcher or to a plurality of watchers.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said defined subsets of said elements of said presence information provided are dependent on the identity of the watcher.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a determining unit configured to determine the identity of the watcher making said request.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~An apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said storing unit comprises a presence server.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information providing unit configured to provide said information comprises a storage unit.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said storing unit and said information providing unit are provided by a common storage unit.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information providing unit configured to provide said information comprises one of said users.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a separate address is provided for each of a plurality of groups.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said users comprise user equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said presence information comprises at least one of the following elements of information:

subscriber status; network status; communication type; contact address; subscriber provided location; network provided location; text; priority; mood; and favorite color.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said second information comprises information as to subsets of said elements of said presence information required.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said second information comprises information as to the subsets of said elements of said presence information not required.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the subsets of said elements of the presence information to be obtained are the same for all of at least one group.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the subsets of said elements of the presence information to be obtained are different for at least two users in at least one group.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system operates in accordance with a session initiation protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said request for said presence information is made in a subscribe request.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the information providing unit comprise a session initiation protocol subscribe message.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said storing unit is configured to receive presence information from the users of said group.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said storing unit is configured to provide the subset of said elements of the presence information to be provided.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein an entity associated with a user or a user of the group is configured to provide the elements of the presence information to be provided.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 23, wherein said entity comprises a presence server.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications entity~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said storing unit is configured to add said elements of presence information to a request sent to said user or an entity associated with said user.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said storage unit receives a request from said watcher, said storage unit is configured to

insert the elements of presence information into a request sent to said user or an entity associated with said user.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ method, comprising:

defining at least one group, said group ~~containing~~ comprising a plurality of users with which presence information is associated, said presence information comprising a plurality of elements associated with each user,

defining for each user of said group which elements of said presence information are to be provided to a watcher, wherein for at least one user of said group, said provided information defines a subset of said elements of said presence information; and

wherein defining for each user of said group which elements of said presence information are to be provided is preferred by the watcher.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

filtering the presence information for at least one user of the group to obtain the defined elements of said presence information.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

requesting for at least one user of said group said defined elements of said presence information.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a storing unit configured to store:

first information defining at least one group, wherein said group comprises a plurality of users with which presence information is associated, and wherein said presence information comprises a plurality of elements associated with each user; and

second information defining for each user of said group which elements of said presence information are to be provided to a watcher, wherein for at least one user of said group, said second information defines a subset of said elements of said presence information wherein said second information is definable by the watcher.

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~-system, comprising:

presence information providing means for providing presence information associated with a plurality of users, said presence information comprising a plurality of elements associated with each user;

storing means for storing first information defining at least one group, said group ~~containing~~ comprising a plurality of users; and

information providing means for providing second information defining for said each user of said group which elements of said presence information are to be provided to

a watcher, wherein for at least one user of said group, said second information defines a subset of said elements of said presence information; and

wherein said second information is definable by the watcher.